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WALKER

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

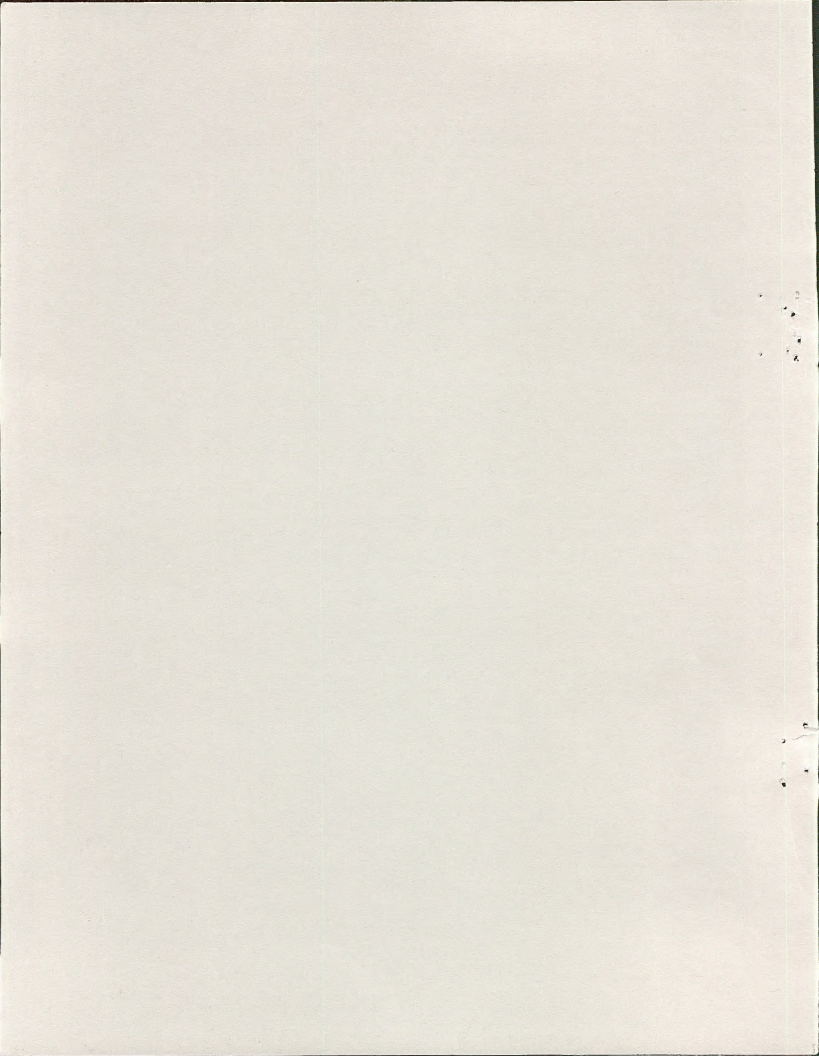
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS SUMMARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT
CARSON CITY, NEVADA

1986

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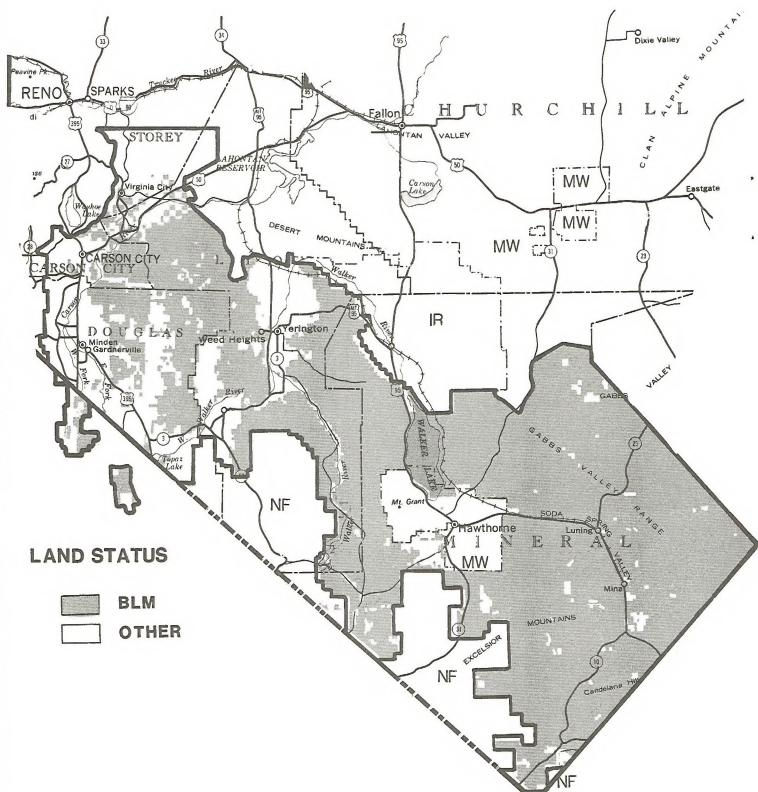
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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS SUMMARY
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Walker Resource Area

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS SUMMARY
WALKER RESOURCE AREA
CARSON CITY DISTRICT, NEVADA

6/6/86

Introduction

This document summarizes major resource management decisions, actions, and guidance applicable to the Walker Resource Area. These decisions and guidance were derived from the Walker Resource Management Plan (1986), the Reno Management Framework Plan (1982), activity plans, environmental assessments, State Office and Washington Office guidance, District policy, and applicable laws and regulations. Decisions from the Reno MFP which apply only to the Pine Nut/Markleeville units are followed by "(P/M)". Decisions from the Walker RMP which apply only to the Walker/Mina units are followed by "(W/M)". Decisions which apply to the entire Walker Resource Area are followed by "(WRA)". Identified management actions pertain to the entire Resource Area.

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Air Quality

Objective: Maintain air quality standards through case by case review of activities on public lands.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. FLPMA Sec. 102a8 provides for the protection of air and atmospheric quality. Sec. 202c8 provides for compliance with applicable air pollution control laws, including Federal and State air pollution standards and implementation plans. All Bureau and Bureau authorized activities will be designed to maintain air quality standards specified in the Nevada Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) specifies the protection of air and atmospheric quality on BLM lands in Sec. 102(a)(8), and compliance with state and Federal laws in Sec. 202(c)(8). FLPMA also requires an active role in preventing air quality violations on BLM lands in Sec. 102(c)(8). The Clean Air Act of 1977 has specific requirements for Federal land managing agencies to protect the air over lands under their jurisdictions.

Implementation: All Bureau and Bureau authorized activities will be reviewed to determine appropriate measures or stipulations to enhance positive or reduce negative air quality impacts.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Objective: Provide protection and enhancement of natural and scientific values at Stewart Valley, while allowing public use and enjoyment and other resource uses.

Management Decisions:

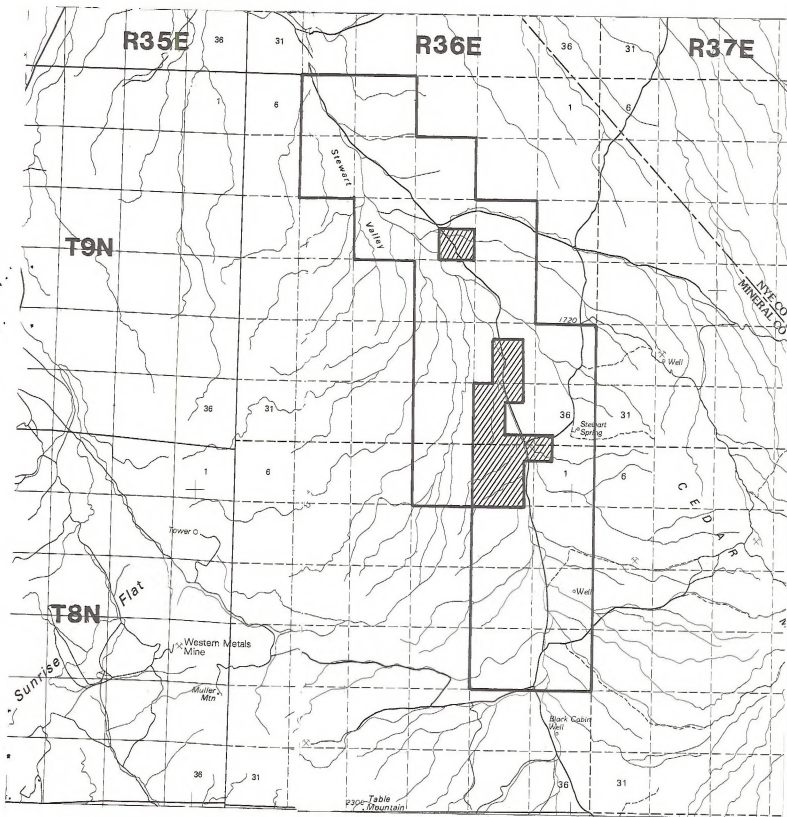
1. Designate 16,000 acres in Stewart Valley as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and withdraw 1,420 of those acres from mineral entry (Stewart Valley Map).
2. Limit off-road vehicle use in the Stewart Valley ACEC to designated roads, trails, and washes.
3. Manage the Stewart Valley ACEC as a Research Natural Area. Establish special rules and permits for scientific research and field schools. No commercial or private collection will be allowed.

These actions are being taken to protect the unique paleontological resources of Stewart Valley. The area has a closely associated assemblage of 10 to 16 million year old pollen, leaves, insects, mollusks, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. It's Barstovian insect fossils are the best record of Middle Miocene insects in the world .

Standard Operating Procedures

1. All mining operations, other than casual use, occurring in an ACEC area are approved through a Plan of Operation filed pursuant to 43 CFR 3809, so as to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation.

Implementation: Designation of Stewart Valley as an ACEC does not by itself preclude any activities allowed under the public land laws. The ACEC designation is a recognition of the special resources of an area and a commitment to provide management which protects and/or enhances that area. No action that is inconsistent with the terms of an ACEC designation or that would adversely impact an ACEC protected resource will be permitted, unless it is found through the plan amendment process that the public benefits of such an action outweigh the public benefits of continuing the ACEC protection and that there is no feasible alternative to the proposed inconsistent action. Protection of the ACEC is accomplished through management actions developed specifically for each individual area.



**Areas Proposed For Withdrawal
From Mineral Entry -1,420 Acres**

**WALKER RESOURCE AREA
STEWART VALLEY RESEARCH
NATURAL AREA (ACEC)-16,000 ACRES**

Cultural Resources

Objective: Cultural, paleontological, and natural history resources will be protected to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with other resource values.

Management Actions:

1. Cultural, paleontological, and natural history resources are preserved and protected or adverse impacts to the resource are mitigated in a manner that complies with relevant Federal laws and regulations.
2. The President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is consulted in regards to any Bureau authorized actions which affect areas listed on the National Register of Historic places - Virginia City, Aurora, and the East Walker River Petroglyph Site.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Cultural Resources: Cultural resource protection requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; Section 101(b)(4) of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969; and the Native American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1970.
2. Projects affecting these Resources: Each proposed development project or lands case is judged on its own merits as to whether impacts may be substantial. The decision of where and how to inventory and how to resolve real conflicts (adverse impacts) for cultural resources is outlined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800. Protection of paleontologic and natural history resources involves internal management decisions by the District and Area Managers, in keeping with NEPA regulations.
3. Range improvement projects require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation if adverse impacts to cultural or paleontological sites cannot be avoided. This is in accordance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and the Council, dated January 14, 1980.

Fire Management

Objective: Provide for cost effective control of wildfires on public lands to protect life, property, and natural resources.

Management Actions:

The Gabbs Valley Wilderness Study Area (WSA) has been designated a "Limited Suppression" area. This means that initial fire attack forces will be dispatched to fire sites to quickly put out fires at minimal costs. Should initial attack prove either infeasible or unsuccessful, the fire may be allowed to burn to predetermined control points such as roads or natural barriers. The use of heavy equipment is precluded except to prevent loss of life or adjacent property. The Burbank Canyons, Slinkard, and Carson-Iceberg WSAs have been designated "Full Suppression" areas. In these areas full, sustained and aggressive action will be taken to contain the fire without the use of heavy equipment except to prevent loss of life or adjacent property. These procedures are in conformance with the Wilderness Interim Management Policy.

For the rest of the Resource Area a "Full Suppression" policy is in effect. A fire management plan is currently being prepared for the Carson City District.

Forestry

Objective: Forest and woodland management will be based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

Management Decisions:

1. A variety of woodland products will continue to be available to the public. Designated green firewood and Christmas tree cutting area will be maintained and developed as public demand directs. Firewood gathering and Christmas tree cutting by individuals for home use will be permitted in these areas. Woodland products will be sold at fair market value. Maximum District-wide harvest rates are currently 5,000 cords and 16,000 Christmas trees annually (WRA).
2. Commercial firewood and Christmas tree sales will be dealt with on a case by case basis. These sales will be covered by an environmental assessment and a checklist of contract stipulations that conform with the guidelines developed in the Carson City Woodland Management Policy (BLM Manual Supplement, 1983). Commercial sales may be either negotiated or competitive bid depending on the size of the sale and local demand (WRA).
3. Pinyon pine nuts may be harvested throughout the Resource Area. The first 25 pounds are free and do not require a permit. After the initial 25 pounds the harvester is considered a commercial user and will be required to get a permit and pay fair market value. Commercial use is subject to Area Manager approval. (WRA).
4. Fence post sales will be made in greenwood cutting areas or by section, township, and range upon approval by the Area Manager (WRA).
5. Dead pinyon and juniper will be sold throughout the Resource Area upon approval by the Area Manager. Dead commercial saw timber species will be sold only in the Markleeville Planning Unit (Alpine County) (WRA).
6. A road construction and maintenance program will continue to be funded from permit revenues (WRA).
7. Salvage and sanitation cutting of commercial timber will be provided for in the Markleeville Planning Unit (WRA).
8. Vegetation treatments in woodland areas will be allowed only after woodland products have been offered for sale (WRA).

Standard Operating Procedures

1. Forest resources will continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis as a part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of the forest resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached to assure mitigation and enhancement of projects with forest management objectives.
2. Harvest procedures will require a minimum 6" diameter for firewood cutting, scattering slash, leaving trees for seed and cover, and limiting individual cutters to 5 cords per year where demand is high.

Implementation: The establishment of greenwood cutting areas and harvest levels will be implemented through Woodland Management Activity Plans which include ten year sale levels and are based on woodland inventories and classifications.

Lands and Realty

Objective: Transfer lands out of federal ownership that are uneconomic to manage or have been identified for community expansion or agricultural development and have little value for other resource uses.

Management Decisions:

1. Designate for potential future disposal approximately 26,000 acres in the Walker/Mina Planning Units as a pool of lands which meet preliminary criteria for transfer from federal ownership (Lands Map). These are lands that are difficult and uneconomic to manage because of the location and other characteristics (e.g.: scattered parcels south of Hawthorne and in Smith and Mason Valleys); land that would support community expansion (e.g.; land west of Yerington, land surrounding the towns of Luning, Mina, and Sodaville, and land east of Montgomery Pass); land with possible agricultural potential in Smith and Mason Valleys; and land along the East Walker River identified for exchange to benefit Bureau programs (W/M).
2. Identify as potentially suitable for disposal 5100 acres for community expansion and 7700 acres as suitable for disposal for recreation and public purposes in the Pine Nut/Markleeville Planning Units (Land Tenure Map) (P/M).

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Transfer of land from federal ownership is subject to the following provision: Mineral rights will be reserved to the United States unless there are no known mineral values in the land or the non-mineral development of the land is of more value than the minerals and the reservation of mineral rights interferes with such non-mineral development.
2. Lands identified as not suitable for disposal will be retained in Federal ownership. The determination of suitability for disposal will include an analysis of Threatened and Endangered Species; wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains; and wildlife, livestock, and wild horse use.
3. Rights-of-way for public access will be reserved prior to disposal of lands.
4. No lands will be disposed of if a cultural resources survey determines that they contain sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, unless appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented.
5. New communication sit development will be allowed only when expansion of an existing site is not reasonable.

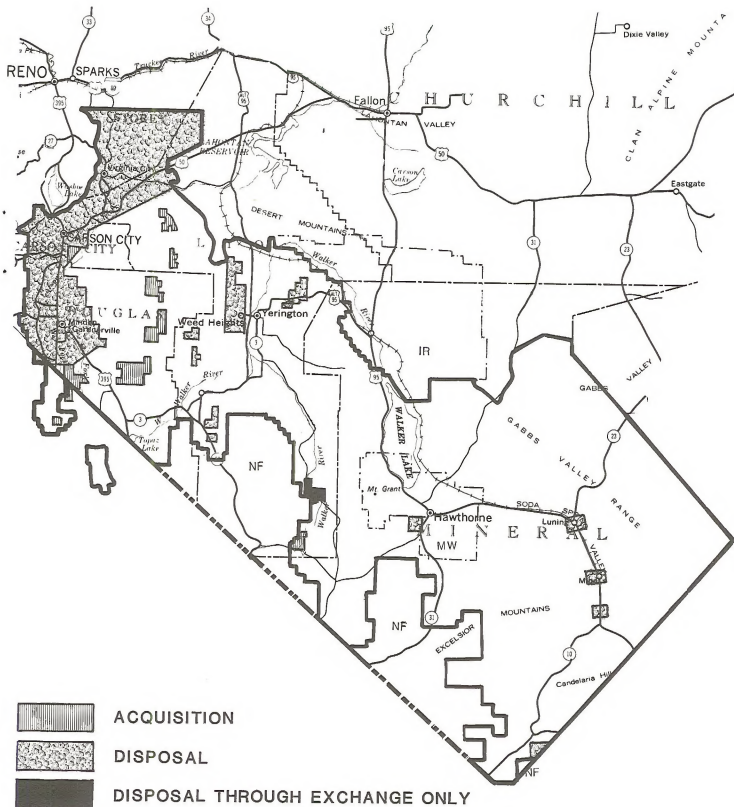
Implementation: The decisions in this document identify a pool of lands with the potential for future transfer to state and local governments, as well as to the private sector. Preliminary analysis indicates those tracts of public land identified meet the disposal criteria outlined in Section 203 of FLPMA.

These are lands that are difficult or uneconomic to manage; are not suitable for management by another federal agency; were acquired for a purpose which is no longer required, or would serve an important public objective, which cannot be obtained otherwise and outweigh other public values.

The methods for tenure adjustments for these lands include lease and sale under the R&PP Act; and lease, sale, or exchange under FLPMA.

Any land sales are subject to the provisions of NEPA and Section 203 of FLPMA, which mandate a detailed analysis of each specific disposal. This analysis includes preparation of an environmental assessment, a cultural resources clearance, a report on mineral values, and an appraisal to establish fair market value. Tracts that this analysis indicates are not suitable for disposal will be retained. If the analysis indicates that a tract is suitable for disposal, a Notice of Realty Action will be distributed to interested parties, including local governments. This notice is published with a right of protest. A final decision will occur upon completion of the protest period.

Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public.



**WALKER RESOURCE AREA
LAND TENURE DESIGNATIONS**

Livestock Grazing

Objective: Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for livestock use.

Management Decisions: (Note: This section describes actions in general terms only. A more detailed allotment specific description of the planning decisions will be published in the Walker Rangeland Program Summary).

Walker-Mina Planning Units

1. Initially, authorize livestock use at the three year average licensed use level of 36,962 AUMs. There will be no initial change in active preference.
2. Develop and implement AMPs on seven Category I allotments, and continue implementation of existing AMPs on one Category I and four Category M allotments to improve and/or maintain condition; provide for proper utilization within key areas; achieve better livestock distribution to obtain more uniform utilization; and provide an increase in available forage and water for livestock, wild horses and burros, and wildlife.
3. Install the following range improvements to assist in meeting management objectives. These range improvements will consist of:
 - a. The development of water facilities and systems which will include drilling two wells, laying 11 miles of water pipeline, installing one water storage tank and 14 water troughs, and developing eight spring sources and one reservoir.
 - b. Construction of 32 miles of fence and installation of five cattle guards.
 - c. Brush control on 500 acres.
4. Reestablish the Lincoln Flat allotment by splitting it off from the Spring Gulch allotment. Change livestock use from sheep to cattle and establish a grazing period of use from 12/31 to 1/31. Eliminate the Colony Settlement allotment and incorporate the remaining public land into the Hudson Hills allotment.
5. Continue rangeland and watershed monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met and what future adjustments in grazing use are necessary.

Pine Nut-Markleeville Planning Units

1. Initially, authorize livestock use at the three-year average licensed use level of 11,536 AUMs. There will be no initial change in active preference.
2. Develop and implement AMPs as needed. AMPs have been identified for development on all four Category I allotments.
3. Install the following range improvements to assist in meeting management objectives:

One well, three water tanks, six spring developments, and one reservoir.
4. Continue rangeland and watershed monitoring to determine if management objectives are being met and what future adjustments in grazing use are necessary.
5. Exclude livestock grazing from the Prison Hill, Diamond Valley, Spratt Creek, Hangman, Paye Canyon, and Luther Creek allotments as grazing administration is no longer practical.
6. Combine Fish Springs and Jacobsen allotments with the Buckeye allotment and the Gold Hill allotment with the Carson Plains allotment.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Benefit Cost (B/C) analysis will be performed on improvements required to implement new AMPs and other appropriate activity plans subsequent to the EIS. The B/C analysis will be performed in compliance with Bureau policy.
2. Permanent roads will not be constructed into project sites. Existing access, off-road travel, or temporary roads which could be rehabilitated after construction activity will be used.
3. Construction of all fences will conform with the objectives and specifications in Bureau Manual 1737 to assure minimization of impacts to wildlife, wild horses, recreation, and visual resources.
4. The clearing of vegetation from project sites will be restricted to the minimum amount necessary.
5. Application of herbicides, such as 2,4-D, on proposed treatment areas to reduce sagebrush and other plant species would be in accordance with procedures established in Bureau Manual 9222 and other applicable regulations, laws, and court orders to ensure non-impairment of other than target species.
6. All disturbed areas will be rehabilitated, where such action is necessary and practical, to replace ground cover and prevent erosion.
7. Maintenance of structural improvements shall be provided by the user deriving the primary benefit from the improvement through cooperative agreements and as specified in the Bureau's 1982 Rangeland Improvement Policy.
8. Livestock permits will be adjusted, if necessary, to reflect decreases in public land forage available for livestock grazing use within an allotment as a result of land tenure adjustments.
9. When public lands are disposed of or devoted to a public purpose which precludes livestock grazing, the permittees and lessees will be given two years' prior notification, except in cases of emergency (i.e.; military defense requirements in time of war, natural disasters, national emergency needs, etc.), before their grazing permit or grazing lease and grazing preference may be cancelled in whole. A permittee or lessee may unconditionally waive the two-year prior notification. Such a waiver shall not prejudice the permittee's or lessee's right to reasonable compensation for the fair market value of his interest in authorized permanent range improvements located on these public lands.

Implementation: Livestock grazing has been eliminated from six allotments and five allotments have been combined since the Pine Nut-Markleeville decisions were finalized. Draft allotment management plans have been prepared for the Churchill Canyon, Pine Nut, and Buckeye allotments. The monitoring and evaluation system has been expanded throughout the Resource Area.

The Walker Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) will explain in detail the procedures for establishing livestock grazing use levels. It will identify any proposed grazing decisions and summarize any agreements. These identify initial livestock grazing use and the data needed and procedures to be used in determining future adjustments. The following is a general discussion of those implementation procedures:

The Selective Management Policy

It is the policy of the BLM to address rangeland management problems through a selective management approach. This approach assigns management priorities among allotments within a planning area. This is based on identifying allotments with similar management needs, resource characteristics, and potential for improvement in both resource and economic returns.

The similarity among the allotments allows them to be grouped into three categories, each having its own objective. The three categories and their objectives are: Maintain current satisfactory condition; Improve current unsatisfactory condition; or manage the allotments Custodially, while protecting existing resources. The use of these allotment categories will help to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel in such a way as to achieve cost effective improvement of rangeland production and condition. These funds will be used to develop grazing treatments and systems and install range improvements in order to resolve grazing related problems. The priorities identify those allotments where more intensive management is needed.

Allotments have been placed in the (M) Maintenance, (I) Improvement, and (C) Custodial categories using the criteria outlined in Appendix D of the Draft RMP.

Allotment Management Plans

Allotment management plans (AMPs) will be developed for all Category I allotments. For Category M and C allotments, AMPs will be developed as needed. These plans will be multiple-use in nature. They will be developed in consultation with interested parties and coordinated with wildlife, wild horse and burro, watershed, and wilderness plans. Key components of AMPs are allotment specific objectives, monitoring studies, grazing systems, range improvements, and evaluations.

Grazing Treatments and Systems

A grazing treatment describes grazing use practices for a unit (usually a pasture) of an allotment, or an entire allotment, in one or more years. Grazing treatments are the building blocks of the grazing plan, and are designed to improve rangeland condition by manipulating livestock grazing to accomplish objectives of management. The deferment of grazing or complete rest from grazing during the critical growth period of key management species will allow these species to maintain and/or increase their density, composition, vigor, production, and reproduction. The following rest treatments (singly or in various combinations) will be combined with scheduled grazing treatments to form grazing systems in AMPs for specific allotments.

Treatment 1: Rest from livestock grazing for two consecutive growing seasons (approximately April 1 of one year to August 21 of the following year).

Two growing seasons of rest will allow key management species to improve vigor, increase litter accumulation, seed production, and

seedling establishment. Rest for two growing seasons is required in order for grass seedlings to develop adequate root growth to withstand appreciable grazing and trampling (Hormay, 1970).

Treatment 2: Livestock grazing from mid-summer to fall (approximately July 16 to November 15 -- dates vary with allotments).

Grazing after seed-ripe will provide better seed dispersal and trampling. When coupled with other treatments that provide for spring rest the following year, this treatment would allow an improvement in plant vigor and seedling establishment for key grass species and many shrubs.

Treatment 3: Provide rest from livestock grazing for two years, until seedlings are established or until it is determined that a vegetation manipulation or recovery project is unsuccessful.

This treatment provides the protection necessary for establishment or recovery of key management species following wildfire, seeding, burning, or herbicide spraying projects.

Treatment 4: Defer livestock grazing from early spring to mid-summer each year (approximately April 1 to June 30).

This treatment may be required yearly and could be retained until the systems are implemented. Improved vigor and reproduction of key management species in each allotment would result.

Where intensive grazing management systems are implemented, recommended utilization levels may be exceeded during each grazing cycle. The periodic rest from grazing would allow the key management species to increase in vigor and production.

Treatment 5: For key deer winter range where bitterbrush is the key species, a special grazing treatment is recommended. This requires two years of rest, followed by one year of grazing after seed-ripe and finally one year of season-long grazing. Variations of this treatment are acceptable as long as they include the two-year rest period required for bitterbrush seed production.

Resource Monitoring

Future adjustments in livestock will be based on consultation with interested parties and an analysis of data from monitoring studies. This involves the use of vegetation study techniques to measure ecological status and trend, grazing utilization and distribution, actual use information, and climatic data.

Category I allotments have the greatest number of resource conflicts and potential for improvement. Therefore, more intensive range monitoring efforts, including frequency transects (1984 Nevada Range Monitoring Procedures), key area utilization, ecological status, use pattern mapping, actual use, and precipitation studies will be implemented or continued in these allotments to determine whether management objectives are being met with proposed management and treatments. Management and/or grazing use levels may be changed based upon the results of these studies.

Few changes in management or treatments are anticipated for Category M and C allotments. Therefore, less intensive range monitoring efforts, including utilization, actual use, precipitation, and some frequency studies within selected key areas will be implemented or continued to determine changes in rangeland and conditions, if any.

Minerals and Energy

Objective: Encourage the exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources in a manner consistent with other public land uses.

Management Decisions: Public lands in the Resource Area will remain open to mineral and energy development activity with the following exceptions:

1. The most sensitive part of the Stewart Valley ACEC (1420 acres) will be withdrawn from mineral entry (W/M).
2. The exclusion from oil, gas, and geothermal leasing in the East Walker River Scenic Area will be adjusted to conform with the segregation from mineral entry. This will result in a net reduction of 334 acres in the exclusion area (W/M).
3. Existing segregations and withdrawals from mineral entry will be maintained on 22,500 acres (one percent of the Resource Area). This includes key watershed and wildlife areas at Alkali Lake, Antelope Valley, the Pine Nut Mountains, and Topaz Lake; and major recreation and scenic areas at the East Walker River, Wilson Canyon, Walker Lake, and Prison Hill (Mineral and Energy Map)(WRA).
4. Public water reserves will be maintained on key streams and springs to protect public water rights. These areas are open to mineral leasing and mineral entry for metallic minerals but are closed to non-metalliferous minerals (WRA).
5. The existing closure of 27,500 acres to oil, gas, and geothermal leasing will be maintained (except as noted in 2 above). This includes key scenic, wildlife, recreation, and historic areas at Jacks Valley, the East Walker River, Indian Creek, Walker Lake, Virginia City, Aurora, Prison Hill, Alkali Lake, and Wilson Canyon (WRA).
7. Seasonal restrictions on oil, gas, and geothermal activity will be maintained on 85,300 acres of sage grouse habitat from March 1 to July 30 primarily in the East Walker River area and the Pine Nut Mountains and on 10,200 acres of prairie falcon habitat in the Excelsior Mountains from February 1 to September 1. Surface occupancy will continue to be restricted within 500 feet of any water (Mineral and Energy Map) (WRA).
8. All public land within the Gabbs Valley Range (79,600 acres), Burbank Canyons (13,395 acres), Slinkard (5,440 acres), and Carson-Iceberg (550 acres) WSAs is subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Interim Management Policy. Basically, this policy restricts mining and energy development activities to those which do not impair wilderness quality. The restrictions are limited where valid existing rights or grandfathered rights occur. If congress designates any of the WSAs as wilderness, the areas will be closed to mineral entry. At present the Gabbs Valley Range, Burbank Canyons, and Slinkard WSAs have been recommended for non-designation. No recommendation has been developed for the Carson-Iceberg WSA (WRA).

Recreation

Objective: Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities on public lands in the Resource Area.

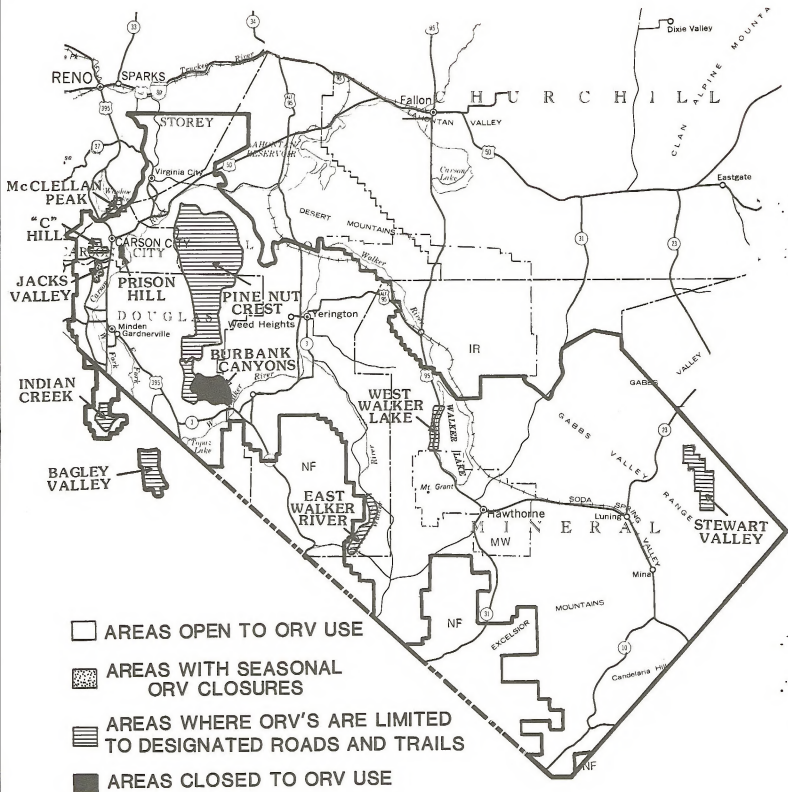
Management Decisions:

1. Recreation management plans will be maintained for Indian Creek, Prison Hill, Walker Lake, and the East Fork Carson River (WRA).
2. Special Recreation Management Area designations will be maintained for the Indian Creek/East Fork Carson River and Walker Lake areas (P/M).
3. All public lands will remain open to Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Recreation with the following exceptions:

The West Side of Prison Hill is, and the Burbank Canyons Scenic Area will be closed to vehicles. The Jacks Valley Wildlife Management Area is closed to vehicles from March 1 to May 1 (ORV Map). Vehicles will be limited to designated routes in the East Walker River Scenic Area, the Stewart Valley ACEC, Bagley Valley, Indian Creek/East Fork Carson River Special Recreation Management Area, the Pine Nut Mountain Crest, McClellan Peak, "C" Hill, and the west side of Walker Lake (WRA).

All public lands within the Gabbs Valley Range, Burbank Canyons, Slinkard and Carson-Iceberg WSAs are subject to the non-impairment criteria outline in the Wilderness Interim Management Policy. Essentially, this limits ORV use to existing roads and ways except where cross country travel does not impair wilderness quality and where such use (related to mining and livestock grazing) is grandfathered (WRA).

4. Acquire 2,200 acres along the East Carson River and at Prison Hill to improve recreation management (P/M).



WALKER RESOURCE AREA
OFF ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) DESIGNATIONS

Right-of-Way Corridors

Objective: Provide for an east-west and north-south network of right-of-way corridors through the Resource Area.

Management Decisions:

1. Designate 375 miles of rights-of-way corridors which include existing transmission lines, and identify 84 miles of planning corridors as shown on the Corridor Map. All corridors are two miles in width. Private lands are not included in these corridors (WRA).

The corridors are:

a. C-A-W, a right-of-way corridor, containing a major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to the South Lake Tahoe area.

b. D-H, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from Bonneville to Los Angeles. Another major powerline is being planned for this route.

c. C-F, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to southern Nevada. Portions of this route also contain U.S. Highway 95, a railroad, telephone, and other powerlines.

d. E-G, a right-of-way corridor following the existing Western Area Power Administration right-of-way. The existing right-of-way is the eastern boundary of this corridor. While it does not contain a powerline, a major powerline from Bonneville to southern Nevada and California is planned for this route.

e. I-J, a planning corridor for a powerline between Austin and the Los Angeles area. A portion of this route borders U.S. Highway 6 and contains telephone and secondary powerlines. It may be considered for power transmission to southern California from Dixie Valley.

f. E-M, a planning corridor for a proposed powerline from Dixie Valley connecting to a Forest Service corridor.

g. D-L, a planning corridor for a potential major gas pipeline to the west coast. A portion of the route follows an existing powerline corridor route.

h. C-B, a right-of-way corridor following the existing major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to Reno and Carson City.

i. C-Y, a right-of-way corridor containing a major powerline from the Fort Churchill Power Plant to Reno.

j. Z-Y, a right-of-way corridor containing a major powerline from the Valmy Power Plant to Reno.

k. Z-A, a right-of-way corridor containing major powerlines from the Tracy Power Plant to Carson City and Gardnerville.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. During the pre-construction and construction periods, the Bureau will make modifications to any right-of-way necessary to maintain stability of geologic materials, fish and wildlife habitats, the environment, and the public interest.
2. The Bureau will, if necessary, suspend any construction or maintenance activity if there is an immediate threat to life (including wildlife and aquatic life), property, or the environment.
3. A right-of-way holder shall abate any conditions existing that could potentially cause irreparable harm or damage to any person or property.
4. Existing roads and trails will be used whenever possible during construction.
5. The right-of-way holder shall permit free and unrestricted public access to and upon the right-of-way for all lawful and proper purposes, except in areas designated as restricted by the Bureau in order to protect the public safety or facilities constructed on the right-of-way.
6. The Bureau will approve the location of all rights-of-way prior to construction through an analysis of the proposed action through an environmental assessment, cultural resources clearance, Threatened and Endangered Species evaluation, and a visual resource management evaluation.
7. The right-of-way holder will use every reasonable means to minimize erosion and soil damage in connection with construction, rehabilitation, or maintenance operations under a grant, including (but not limited to) construction of waterbars, cross ditches, or other structures.
8. Holder shall remove or dispose of all waste in accordance with a plan approved by the Authorized Officer and in a manner consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
9. Re-vegetation of disturbed lands will be required as specified by the Bureau. The appropriate seed mixture and proper planting techniques will be specified by the Bureau.
10. The right-of-way holder's activities in connection with the project system in key fish and wildlife areas will, when necessary, be restricted by the Bureau during periods of fish and wildlife breeding, nesting, spawning, lambing or calving activity; and during major migrations of fish and wildlife.
11. All operations under right-of-way grants will be conducted in such a manner as will avoid: a) Permanent blockage of any drainage system; b) Changing the character, or causing the pollution or siltation of rivers, streams, reservoirs, ponds, water holes, or springs; and c) Damaging fish and wildlife resources and habitat.
12. The right-of-way holder will take such measures as are necessary to assure unrestricted passage and movement of fish and wildlife. No artificial structure or stream channel alteration that would cause a blockage to the movement of fish will be allowed.
13. Right-of-way holders shall construct, maintain, operate and/or modify structures or facilities as directed by the Bureau to protect and minimize adverse effects upon raptors and other wildlife. Raptors will be protected through the use of "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Powerlines", Raptor Research Report No. 4, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. (1981). Holder shall report any and all wildlife kills, including raptor electrocutions, discovered or reported on or near project facilities to the Bureau.

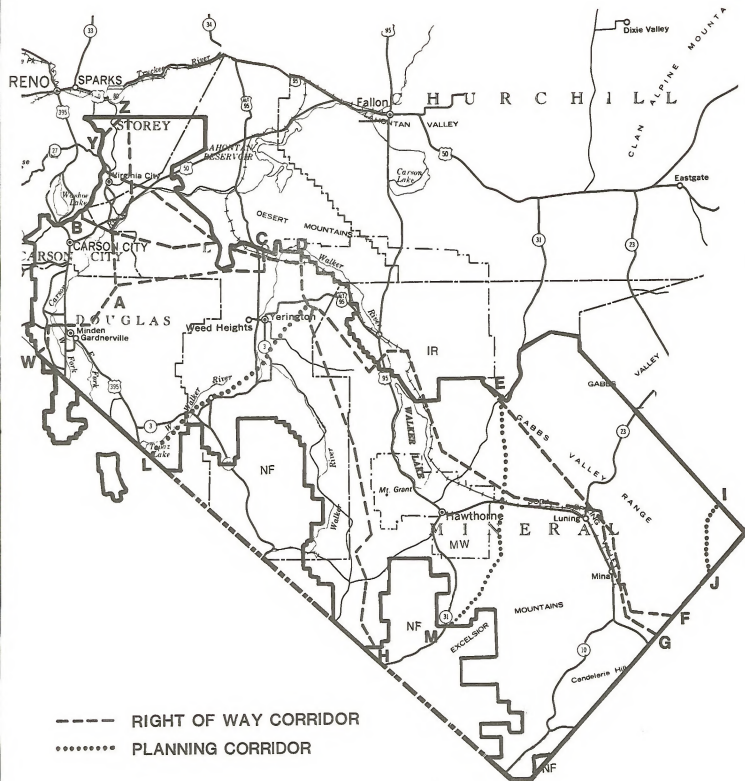
14. If the Bureau deems necessary a complete intensive cultural resources survey (BLM Class III) will be completed prior to issuance of a grant. Known or located cultural sites would be avoided within the corridors when locating roads, assembly areas and towers.
15. Holder will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer all antiquities or other objects of historic or scientific interest, including but not limited to historic or prehistoric ruins, fossils, or artifacts discovered as a result of operations under the grant and will leave such discoveries intact.
16. Materials and colors used in tower construction will visually blend with the surrounding landscape to meet the approval of the Bureau. Only non-reflective materials will be used for towers, lines, and insulators.

Implementation: The designation of rights-of-way corridors is intended to minimize the proliferation of dispersed rights-of-way by indicating the Bureau's preferred location. Designation does not mean that future rights-of-way are restricted to corridors, nor is it a commitment by the Bureau to approve all rights-of-way applications within corridors - a corridor is not a withdrawal.

Corridor management involves encouraging prospective applicants to locate within corridors. This may limit other activities within corridors which are not compatible with right-of-way use. Land disposals within the corridors will be analyzed for their impact on future right-of-way activities.

All applications for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2802). These procedures include:
1) Preparation of an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; 2) A determination of compliance of the applicant's proposed plan with applicable Federal and state laws; 3) Consultation with Federal, state, and local agencies; and 4) Any other action necessary to fully evaluate and make a decision to approve or deny the application and prescribe suitable terms and conditions for the grant or permit. Consultation and coordination with the public, including adjacent landowners will occur throughout the process.

Corridors provide for a variety of right-of-way uses including powerlines, pipelines, railroads, and highways. The major use expected in the Resource Area is powerlines.



WALKER RESOURCE AREA
CORRIDOR DESIGNATIONS

Scenic Areas

Objective: Protect and enhance the visual qualities of areas with outstanding scenic values.

Management Decisions:

1. East Walker Scenic Area (W/M)

Expand the Scenic Area from 3,889 acres to 4,173 acres.

Adjust the Scenic Area boundary in T. 8 N., R. 27 E., Sec. 34 by deleting Lots 6 and 7 and adding Lots 8 and 9 to correct an error in the legal description. Manage the Scenic Area as a Class II Visual Resource Management Zone, where management actions can be evident but should not detract from the scenic quality of the area.

The exclusion from oil, gas, and geothermal leasing in the East Walker River Scenic Area will be adjusted to conform with the segregation from mineral entry. This will result in a net reduction of 334 acres in the exclusion area (W/M).

Limit vehicles to designated roads.

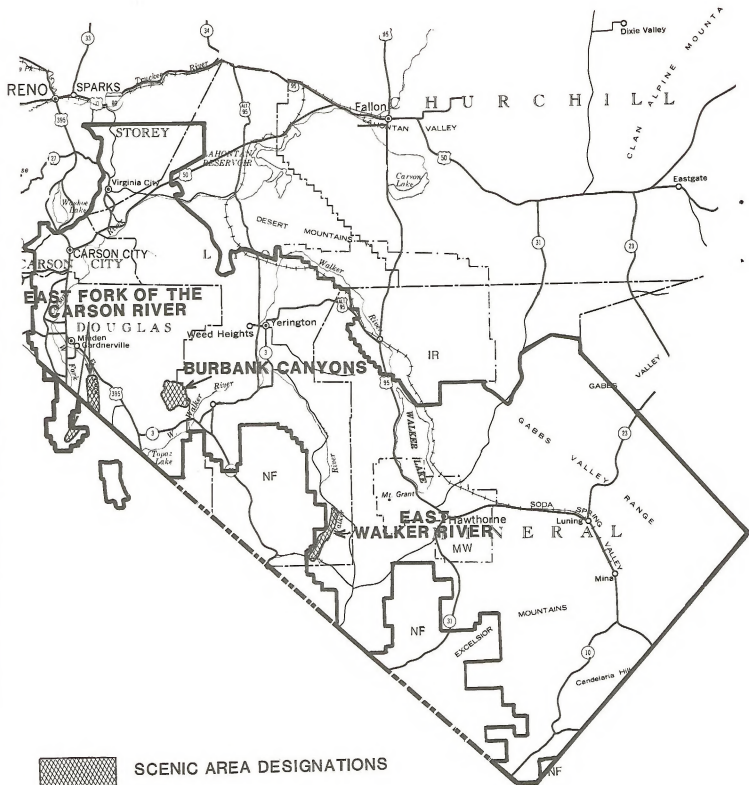
2. Burbank Canyons (W/M)

Designate 13,395 acres in the eastern Pine Nut Mountain Range as the Burbank Canyons Scenic Area. This area will be closed to vehicles except on designated roads.

3. East Fork of the Carson River (P/M)

Designate the East Fork of the Carson River as a Scenic Area and develop specific management directives (Scenic Area Map).

Implementation: Scenic areas are established to identify areas of outstanding visual quality. Scenic areas will be managed to protect and enhance scenic qualities while allowing for appropriate recreation use. These lands are managed within Class II Visual Resource Management objectives where actions may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. The level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low.



**WALKER RESOURCE AREA
SCENIC AREA DESIGNATIONS**

Soils

Objective: Reduce soil loss and associated flood and sediment damage on public lands caused by accelerated wind and water erosion due to man's actions.

Management Decisions:

1. Develop and implement Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) on Corey and Rough Creek watersheds. It is projected that twenty erosion control structures would be required to implement these plans (W/M).

Bureau and Bureau authorized activities will be limited in high erosion hazard areas and in critical watersheds (P/M).

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Soil disturbance from activities on public lands will be minimized through the activity planning and environmental analysis procedures.

Implementation:

Watershed management plans will be developed through consultation with interested parties and will be coordinated with livestock, wildlife, and wild horse and burro management plans. After the plans have been implemented, the watershed conditions will be monitored through the water quality and wind and water erosion studies as appropriate.

Visual Resources

Objective:

Protect the visual resource values of Bureau managed public lands against unnecessary and undue degradation.

Management Decisions:

1. Manage the following areas according to Class II Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards - changes in the landscape due to management activities should not be evident or attract attention: Mount Siegel, Burbank Canyons, East Fork of the Carson River, Indian Creek, Walker Lake, and the East Walker River (VRM Map) (WRA).
2. Manage the following areas according to Class III VRM standards - changes in the landscape due to management activities may be evident but should be subordinate to the existing landscape: Virginia City, Flowery Ridge, Lower Carson River, Carson City, Prison Hill, Rawe Peak, Pine Nut Mountain Crest, 395 South, Markleeville, and Bagley Valley (P/M).
3. Manage the following areas according to Class IV VRM standards - changes in the landscape due to management activities may attract attention and dominate the landscape, if those changes repeat the basic elements found in the landscape: Highway 50 East and the Pine Nut Foothills (Visual Resource Map) (P/M).

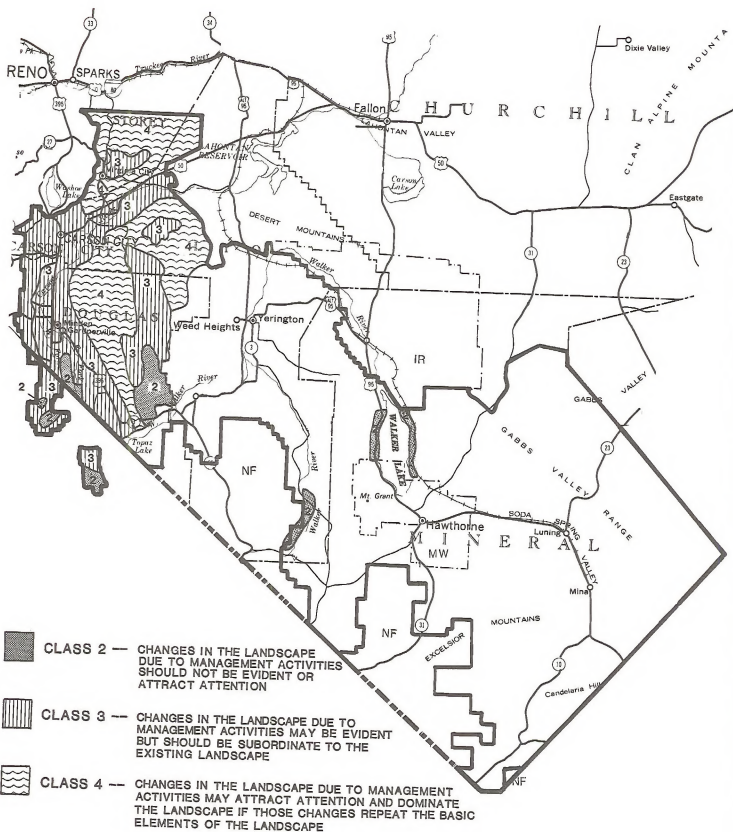
Standard Operating Procedures:

1. For any project which has a visual contrast rating that exceeds the recommended maximum for the visual resource class in which it is proposed, the visual contrasts are considered significant and mitigating measures must be examined. The ultimate decision in these cases of whether a particular project's visual impact is positive or negative, acceptable or unacceptable, and whether mitigating measures must be implemented, rests with the District Manager and must be made on a project-by-project basis.

Implementation:

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area.

Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for visual resources.



WALKER RESOURCE AREA
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES

Water

Objective:

Maintain or enhance water quality and availability on public lands in the Resource Area.

Management Decisions:

1. Water quality will be improved through the development of Watershed Management Plans and protection of riparian areas. Water availability and distribution will be enhanced through water developments proposed for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife (WRA).

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. The Bureau, under the mandates of sections 208 and 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, Executive Order No. 12088, and the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 is required to comply with the State of Nevada's water quality management and implementation plan. Bureau commitment and responsibility is further emphasized by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Nevada State Director and the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Among other things, the Bureau has agreed to: 1) continue to develop a pollution control and abatement program which provides for both environmental protection and reasonable resource uses on BLM administered lands; 2) wherever appropriate, to institute best management practices and employ other necessary plans and permit requirements in the development of management framework plans, allotment management plans, grazing permits, etc., for the abatement and control of nonpoint source pollution from public lands and; 3) develop and institute "208" water quality monitoring and surveys on an as needed basis and, upon request, provide the DEP with any available water quality data gathered by BLM.

Wild Horses and Burros

Objective

Maintain or improve the condition of public rangelands to enhance productivity for wild horses and burros within herd management areas.

Management Decisions:

1. Initially manage wild horses and burros at present estimated population levels except in the following areas: 1) Southern Pine Nut Herd Area where requests from private landowners necessitate removal of the entire population; 2) Powell Mountain Herd Area, where an existing management plan specifies the population level; 3) Garfield Flat Herd Area where the population level will be managed as specified in the 1984 Garfield Flat Interim Removal Plan (WRA). The implementation of these plans would yield a level of 1340 horses and 129 burros in the following areas (Herd Area Map):

<u>Herd Area</u>	<u>Population</u>
Garfield Flat (Horses)	364
Marietta (Burros)	129
Montgomery Pass (Horses)	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pilot Mountain (Horses)	397 $\frac{2}{3}$
Pine Nut-northern (Horses)	387
Pine Nut-southern	0
Powell Mountain (Horses)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wassuk (Horses)	151

- $\frac{1}{2}$ The Forest Service has management responsibility for these herd areas. Population levels listed are prorated to percent BLM lands. The population level for the Montgomery Pass Herd Area is an estimated current population figure. Actual management levels will be determined by the Forest Service.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ The Gabbs Valley Range herd area has been combined with the Pilot Mountain herd area.
2. Propose an area of about 68,000 acres in the Marietta Land Area for designation as the Marietta National Wild Burro Range (P/M).
3. Develop and implement five Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs) for wild horses and burros (WRA). The HMAPs will be developed in the following order:
 1. Marietta
 2. Pine Nut-northern
 3. Garfield
 4. Pilot Mountain
 5. Wassuk
4. Develop seven water sources for wild horses and burros. First priority will be a spring development in the Pilot Mountain Herd Area. Other water developments will be determined through activity plans (W/M).

Standard Operating Procedures

1. Section four of the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act (1971) requires that the wild horses and burros that stray from public lands onto privately owned lands be removed on request from the land owners.
2. Fences in wild horse and burro herd areas will be located or constructed in accordance with Manual Supplement 4730 so as to minimize interference

with the normal distribution and movement of wild horses. Selected portions of new fences constructed in these areas will be flagged or otherwise marked for one year after construction to make them more visible to horses and burros.

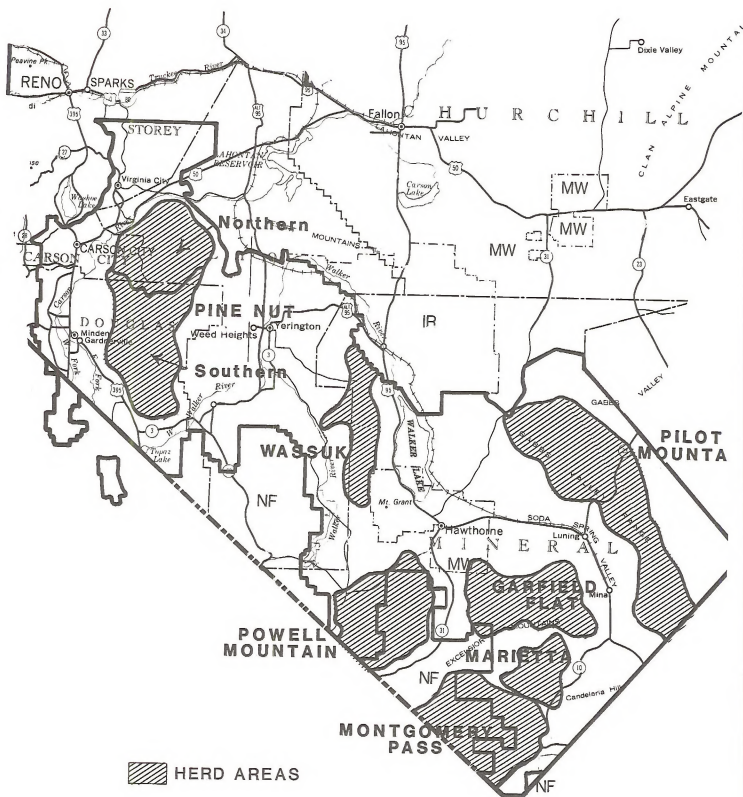
Implementation:

Wild horse and burro management in specific areas will be guided by HMAPs. The plans will be developed through consultation with interested parties and will be coordinated with livestock, wildlife, and watershed plans. They will be focused on wild horses and burro management through maintaining or improving wild horse and burro populations and habitat, development of water sources, and population and habitat monitoring studies. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has been designated lead management responsibilities for wild horses in the Powell Mountain and Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Herd Areas. The USFS has prepared a management plan for the Powell Mountain Wild Horse Territory (USFS term) which sets the wild horse population management level at 29. The Forest Service is in the process of preparing a management plan for the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory, which may require adjustments in that population.

Monitoring of wild horse and burro populations will be conducted in accordance to Nevada State Office Manual Supplement 4730.

Designated Wild Horse and Burro Ranges are devoted primarily to the protection and preservation of wild horses or burros. This means, that other uses must be constrained to the extent necessary to provide fully for their welfare.

Designation of wild horse and burro ranges is reserved to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Following approval of the Walker RMP, the recommendation for designation of the Marietta National Wild Burro Range will be forwarded to the Director for his action.



WALKER RESOURCE AREA
WILD HORSE & BURRO HERD AREAS

Wilderness

The Walker Resource Area has four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Recommendations for designation or non-designation as wilderness were developed for the Burbank Canyons and Gabbs Valley Range WSAs in the Walker RMP and for the Slinkard WSA in the Bodie-Coleville MPP amendment. No recommendations have been developed yet for the Carson-Iceberg WSA.

Following additional review, the Secretary of the Interior will file Final Bodie-Coleville and Walker Wilderness EIS's and forward his recommendations to the President

Objective:

Manage as wilderness those areas for which wilderness values are higher than other values and which have no existing or potential manageability problems.

Management Decisions:

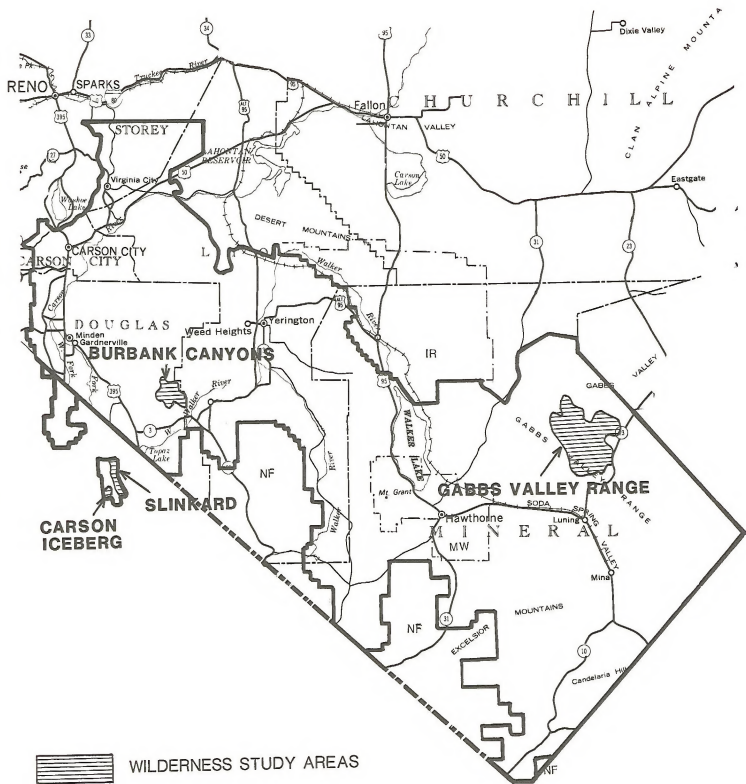
1. Burbank Canyons: Preliminarily recommended as nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. The entire area will be designated as a Scenic Area if recommendation is accepted (W/M).
2. Carson-Iceberg: No recommendations have been developed (P/M).
3. Gabbs Valley Range: Preliminarily recommended as nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. If this recommendation is accepted by Congress, this area will be managed for other multiple uses (W/M).
4. Slinkard: Recommended as nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. If this recommendation is accepted by Congress, this area will be managed for other multiple uses except that vehicles will be limited to existing roads and trails (P/M).

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>Suitable Acres</u>	<u>Nonsuitable Acres</u>
Burbank Canyons NV-030-525a	0	13,395
Carson-Iceberg NV-030-532	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Gabbs Valley Range NV-030-407	0	79,600
Slinkard NV-030-531	0	2,830

1/ No recommendations have been developed to date.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Each wilderness study area will be managed in accordance with Section 603(c) of FLPMA and the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (1979) in order to preserve its wilderness characteristics until Congress either designates it as Wilderness and includes it in the National Wilderness Preservation System, or officially releases it from further wilderness consideration. If designated as Wilderness by Congress, each wilderness area would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Management Policy (1981) and the Wilderness Management Plan developed for that individual area.
2. Reasonable access will be allowed for all valid existing rights established prior to wilderness designation.
3. Operations on valid mining claims located in a designated wilderness area will be authorized pursuant to 43 CFR 3809 and subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act.
4. Plans of Operation and Applications for Permit to Drill on oil and gas and geothermal leases within a designated wilderness area will be reviewed in accordance with NEPA, subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act.



WALKER RESOURCE AREA
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Wildlife

Objectives:

Maintain or improve the condition of the public lands so as to enhance productivity for wildlife.

Manage wildlife habitat to achieve a long term goal of reasonable numbers of big game animals.

Protect and maintain existing and potential fisheries and riparian areas in good or better condition.

Management Decisions:

1. Manage wildlife habitat for a long term goal of providing forage for reasonable numbers of big game as follows: 26,374 AUMs for mule deer (18,087 in the Walker/Mina planning units and 2,567 in the Pine Nut/Markleeville planning units), 268 AUMs for antelope, and 96 AUMs for bighorn sheep; while recognizing an initial forage demand of 20,274 (12,790-Walker/Mina and 7,484-Pine Nut/Markleeville) AUMs for mule deer, 247 AUMs for antelope, and 53 AUMs for bighorn sheep (WRA).
2. Continue implementation of the Alkali Lake, East Walker River, Jacks Valley, Excelsior and Pilot Mountain Management Plans. Revise the Pine Nut HMP (WRA).
3. Support re-introductions of Lahontan cutthroat trout, bighorn sheep, and other endemic species into suitable habitats (W/M).
4. Implement range improvement projects to protect and improve big game, sage grouse, fisheries, and riparian habitat. This includes protection of 10.7 miles of fishable rivers and creeks; rehabilitation of meadow habitat in the McBride Flat allotment; protection of 20 developed spring sources and seven undeveloped riparian areas; removal of 600 acres of pinyon-juniper overstory on selected sites in the Pine Nut Mountains, Excelsior Mountains, Wassuk Range, and the McBride Flat area through fuelwood harvest; installation of three guzzlers; development of water for wildlife at six spring developments and five undeveloped riparian areas; removal of 250 acres of pinyon-juniper and potential chaining and seeding in the J-W Ranch area, and protection of 95 small wildlife habitats (WRA).
5. Acquire lands along the East Walker River through exchange to enhance fisheries and wildlife habitat management (W/M).
6. Acquire 35,000 acres in the Pine Nut Mountains to improve wildlife habitat management.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. A Threatened and Endangered Species clearance for plants or animals is required before any part of the plan is implemented that could affect a Threatened and Endangered species or its habitat. If any part of the plan potentially impacts a Threatened or Endangered species or its habitat, the project will be modified or abandoned if appropriate mitigation measures are not feasible. Such projects require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Water for wildlife will be made available at livestock watering developments where appropriate.
3. Spring improvement projects will be fenced and water will be piped away from the source to a trough or pond if necessary. Water will also be left at the spring source in accordance with Nevada law.

4. Where the need is identified for wildlife use, water improvements will include bird ramps in watering troughs, lateral water sites off pipelines, overflows at troughs, protected seep areas, and fences around spring developments.
5. Brush control by herbicides, prescribed burning, or by mechanical means will be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management. The procedures specify among other things, that vegetation control measures will be prohibited on sage grouse breeding complexes, wintering grounds, or within 100 yards of a stream or meadow.

Implementation:

Wildlife habitat improvement projects will be guided, for the most part, by habitat management plans. The plans will be developed through consultation with interested parties and will be coordinated with livestock, wild horse, and wilderness plans. These plans will be focused on rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat through protective fencing, water developments, grazing management, and vegetation treatments.

Riparian and fisheries habitat protection measures will involve fencing of some specific area to prevent over-utilization and trampling. Some grazing use by livestock and wild horses could occur on those riparian areas where monitoring studies indicate the area has recovered to a good or better condition class. The degree and season of grazing use will be determined through consultation and coordination with affected livestock permittees and other interested parties. Monitoring of big game habitat and fisheries will be conducted in accordance with BLM manuals 6630 and 6672. Monitoring of other wildlife habitats will be conducted as appropriate.

Plan Monitoring

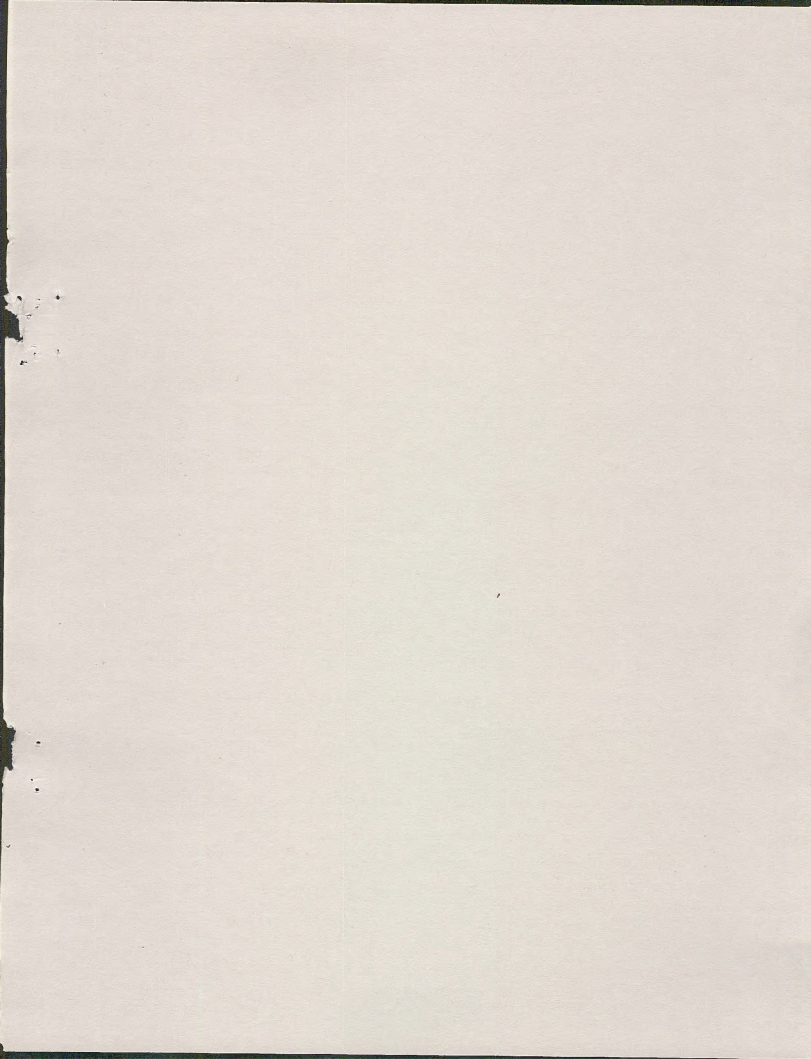
Monitoring will include not only the vegetation monitoring described in the livestock section, but also monitoring of the RMP itself. At intervals not to exceed five years, the management actions will be analyzed for consistency with plans adopted by local, state, and other Federal agencies and Indian tribes. New data will be analyzed to determine its significance to the plan.

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